

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



DATE: March 22, 2012

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Mary Dyas, Compliance Project Manager

**SUBJECT: BLYTHE ENERGY PROJECT, PHASE II (02-AFC-1C)
Staff Analysis of Proposed Modifications**

DOCKET	
02-AFC-1C	
DATE	MAR 22 2012
RECD.	MAR 22 2012

REVISION: To ensure that staff has enough time to respond to comments due by April 10, 2012, this petition to amend will be presented to the Energy Commission at the April 25, 2012 business meeting.

On October 23, 2009, Caithness Blythe II, LLC (Caithness) filed a petition with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) to amend the Energy Commission Decision for the Blythe Energy Project, Phase II (BEP II). Staff prepared an analysis of the proposed changes, and a copy is enclosed for your information and review.

The licensed BEP II project is a 520-megawatt (MW) combined cycle power plant located within the City of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the center of the City, in Riverside County. The project was certified by the Energy Commission in December 2005 and has not begun construction.

The proposed modifications include defining a new point of electrical interconnection via a 2,100 foot-long 500 kilovolt transmission line into the proposed Keim substation; replacement of the Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a turbines, which are no longer available, with fast-start Siemens SGT6-5000F turbines; modification of the combustion turbine and steam turbine enclosure; incorporation of an auxiliary boiler to allow fast start technology; addition of 1,020 sq. ft. of cooling tower; and optimization of the General Arrangement.

Energy Commission staff reviewed the petition, including all supplemental materials, and assessed the impacts of this proposal on environmental quality, public health and safety, and proposes revisions or additions to existing conditions of certification for Air Quality, Hazardous Materials Management, Water Resources, Transmission System Engineering, and Worker Safety. It is staff's opinion that, with the implementation of revised and new conditions, the project will remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards and that the proposed modifications will not result in a significant adverse direct or cumulative impact to the environment (Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1769).

The amendment petition and staff's analysis has been posted on the Energy Commission's webpage at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/blythe2/compliance/index.html>. The Energy Commission's Order will also be posted on the webpage if the petition to amend is approved. Energy Commission staff intends to recommend approval of the petition at the **April 25, 2012**, Business Meeting of the Energy Commission. If you have comments on the proposed modifications, please submit them to me at the address below prior to April 10, 2012.

Mary Dyas, Compliance Project Manager
California Energy Commission
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Comments may be submitted by fax to (916) 654-3882, or by e-mail to mdyas@energy.ca.gov. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 651-8891.

For further information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by e-mail at publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us. News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

Enclosure